

She's THE Music Teacher To Children

By PAQUITA FINE

Mrs. Fred (Adeline) McCall, who has been THE music teacher to Chapel Hill school children for almost 20 years, has two unusual assistants. They are Bozo, a puppet clown, and Tony, a long-legged leprechaun.

Bozo "talks" to the children and "listens" to the quality of their singing. Since he is also a very mischievous clown, he sometimes misbehaves by chewing gum or making noise in the classrooms. He recently lost his head—literally—and is now undergoing an operation to have it replaced. Bozo is so closely associated with Mrs. McCall that when artist Bill Kugler painted her portrait, he included Bozo in the tremendous painting which now hangs in the auditorium of the Institute of Government.

Tony, her second assistant, is almost as well-known to Chapel Hill students as Bozo. His long legs are especially limber and he's adept at showing children how to dance. His favorite is the Children's Symphony by Harl McDonald in which he dances the solo parts while the Children watch. Tony is a wanderer. He recently got lost on the campus and was missing for two months. Not a day passed that the children didn't ask Mrs. McCall if he'd been found. "Tony finally turned up on top of a filing cabinet in the department of bi-physics," said Mrs. McCall. "The secretaries and the UNC students had become so enamored of him, they hated to let him go."

While Mrs. McCall's two chief assistants are adored by the

children in Chapel Hill, it is Mrs. McCall's magic touch that brings them to life and opens up a world of enchantment in the field of music.

A native of Denver, Colorado, young Adeline Denham spent her early years in California and England. When she was a sophomore in college, she came to Chapel Hill to live with Prof. Frederick Koch and her aunt, Mrs. Jean Koch. But long before she came to Chapel Hill, she had decided exactly what she wanted to be. "When I was in the second grade, I took one look at the music teacher who came in to teach us and knew that I was going to be a music teacher. From then on, I was always 'teaching music' to the younger children at school and in our neighborhood. Some of my young piano students actually paid me fifty cents a lesson."

After receiving her AB degree from the University, with a major in English and a minor in Romance Languages, she attended Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, the Ecole Normal in Paris, and the Juilliard School in New York. She received her masters in musicology at UNC. She did her teaching-training working with Harriet Seymour, one of the founders of the musical therapy movement in the United States. "I lived in New York then and I frequently went with groups to Bellevue Hospital to observe this work. Mrs. Seymour insisted that everyone in the group should have certain qualifications. They were selected for the soothing quality of their voices, skill in playing instruments, their mannerisms, and their approach to patients. Mrs. Seymour was making tests on the effects of chamber-groups on mental patients at that time."

Later, working with a child psychologist, Mrs. McCall instituted music programs in nurseries and pre-schools in New Haven and New York. At this time, over the WJZ Blue Network, she presented national programs on music for young children.

For a number of years, Mrs. McCall had a private school in Chapel Hill where she taught piano and theory. Her pupils came every Saturday for ensemble playing—using psalteries, bells, harps, and percussion instruments. She gave up private lessons when she went into public school work as a music teacher.

"The first year I taught," she said, "there was only one elementary school here and the children came to my music room every day. Those were wonderful days. I worked directly with the children and knew one by name. Today this would be impossible. There are six elementary schools here and I work with a hundred teachers and something like 3,000 children. But, if I had to choose between working only with children or with teachers and children, it would be a difficult choice for me to make. Much as I continue to love and



Mrs. Adeline McCall And Bozo

enjoy working with children, some of my deepest satisfaction as musical supervisor for the Chapel Hill schools has been in watching the teachers do an exceptionally fine job in the music program. Many times I am called to a classroom to start a group with musical instruments, part-singing, or creative dancing. This is really enjoyable and what I really love to do since I like best the opportunities for helping teachers by working with the children in their classrooms."

Working with the teachers, Mrs. McCall not only holds demonstrations in the classrooms, but set up workshops and personal conferences. For special programs, she often rolls up her sleeves and gets right in behind the programs.

One thing often leads to another in the field of music. After a puppet performance of "Die Meistersinger" at Glenwood School last year, Mrs. McCall was asked how this show happened to be included in the music curriculum. She answered that this was a part of getting ready for the N. C. Symphony Children's Concert. "The orchestra played the prelude to Act III of Wagner's opera, 'Die Meistersinger,' and this was the inspiration for a sixth grade to turn the story into a puppet show. After presenting it at a symphony workshop for teachers from all over the State, the children performed the show for every grade at Glenwood." (Mrs. McCall is educational director of the N. C. State Symphony.)

The author of a number of books and magazine articles on music, Mrs. McCall's first book, "Timothy's Tunes," was written for the use of young children as an aid in learning to listen attentively, and to play tunes on xylophones, psalteries, and the piano. The book has become so widely used it is now a children's classic. She is also one of the authors of a school music series entitled, "This Is Music." These are books for elementary grades all over the nation. The series has been State-adopted in various parts of the country, and is on the supplementary list for North Carolina schools.

Mrs. McCall's teaching of children is not confined to Chapel Hill. She has taught and held workshops in almost every state in the country. Wherever she goes there may be groups of youngsters in her demonstrations. She recalls as a high spot of her career the National Music Educators Conference in Atlantic City where children from an elementary school close to the boardwalk danced the Bach G Minor Fugue and Debussy's "Snow Is Dancing" for 600 spectators. "I was caught in a blizzard on the way up," she said, "and worried about having only a few hours preparation for the program. But children never let you down—their dancing was superb."

Mrs. McCall is married to Dr. Fred B. McCall, a professor of law at the University. Dr. McCall is also a musician. For many years he has played the tympani in the University Symphony Orchestra. The McCalls live in a large house on Rocky Ridge Road which they share with a grey Persian cat who likes nothing better than curling up in an armchair with Mrs. McCall's two assistants, Bozo the clown and Tony the leprechaun.

BRIDGE MEETING

The Daytime Bridge group of the Newcomer's Division of the University Woman's Club will meet Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Charles Hooker. Mrs. William Strickland will be co-hostess.

Children's Music Group Will Meet

The annual meeting for all members of Music for Children, Inc., will be held Wednesday evening in Mrs. Adeline McCall's music room on the first floor of the West Franklin Elementary School. The meeting will begin at 8, and it is important that all members attend, if possible, as this is the only meeting of the year.

Officers and Directors of Music for Children, Inc. are Dr. Warner Wells, president; Joel Carter, treasurer; Mrs. Stuart Chapin, vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Straley, secretary; and Wayne Bowers, Mrs. John Allcott, and Mrs. Philo Schinhan.

The membership of Music for Children will have an opportunity to see Mrs. McCall's new music room, where she has her headquarters as Music Supervisor.

An announcement about the purpose of the meeting says, "The meeting serves more as a forum for ideas and suggestions for more music for children. There will be a review of the projects now in progress and a brief summary of business."

STAFF WIVES MEETING

The House Staff Wives will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Duke Power Company in Durham. Home Economist, Miss Deamann, will demonstrate holiday foods and decorations. Members are reminded to bring their donations for the Christmas House.

Mrs. Marion Fitz-Simons Has Major Role In Playmakers' O'Neill Drama

By JOHN WHITTY

Marion Fitz-Simons, popular Chapel Hill actress who has made many memorable appearances with the Carolina Playmakers, adds another feather to her cap with her portrayal of Mary Tyrone in the Playmakers production of "Long Day's Journey Into Night." The Eugene O'Neill play will be presented this week in Chapel Hill, opening Wednesday evening and running through Sunday.

Mrs. Fitz-Simons has portrayed many roles, both on-stage and off. After an extended engagement as a teacher, and as the mother of four boys, two of whom are now UNC students, she is assuming a new role this fall, that of a graduate student. Between studying lines for "Long Day's Journey" and studying for her master of arts in teaching degree, the energetic Mrs. Fitz-Simons enjoys a busy existence which she seems to thrive on. Coming out of an eight o'clock class last week, she beamed over having conquered her lines at last and having just gotten a 96 on an English quiz.

This whirlwind of activity, however, which includes late night rehearsals and early morning classes, is relaxing compared to the schedule she had last summer. A regular performer in "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee, Mrs. Fitz-Simons continued



MARION FITZ-SIMONS

in her role of Mrs. Perkins at the evening performance while commuting to Western Carolina College eighteen miles away for summer school work. The

contents of her make-up table included textbooks among the grease paint and powder, and she used her dressing room for a study hall between scenes.

The wife of Foster Fitz-Simons, a staff director of the Carolina Playmakers, Mrs. Fitz-Simons numbers Medea, Lady Macbeth, Eliza Gant in "Look Homeward Angel," and the Dowager Empress in "Anastasia" among her appearances on the Playmakers stage. Last season, as Mrs. St. Maugham in "The Chalk Garden," she was directed by her husband. For "Long Day's Journey," her director is Thomas M. Patterson, who also directed the Playmakers production of O'Neill's "Desire Under the Elms" several seasons ago. Mr. Patterson has just returned from a year of teaching at the University of Seoul in Korea.

Tickets for "Long Day's Journey Into Night" are now on sale, and may be purchased at the Playmakers Business Office (214 Abernethy Hall) and at Ledbetter-Pickard in downtown Chapel Hill. The curtain time for this production will be 7:30 p.m. for the evening performances and 1:30 p.m. for the Sunday matinee.

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